**Diversity**

After looking at the University’s framework for diversity and inclusion, I wish to confront the dissonance between its intentions and its implementation. While I acknowledge the importance of promoting inclusivity, I find the discourse somewhat pretentious. I disagree with the need to attend activities aimed at promoting inclusivity due to considering them devoid of care and understanding. While I still value diversity and inclusion, I no longer believe in being given special treatment based on my mixed ethnicity. These beliefs stem from being given an opportunity to “elaborate” on my experience as mixed ethnicity in a job application. I felt reduced to tokens, validated only through a sympathetic white gaze, rather than recognized for my achievements.

As someone who values authenticity and genuine connection, I question the success of diversity due to the broad spectrum of perspectives that are excluded from the conversation because they challenge conventional norms.

As I reflect on my own journey, I will focus on discourse that allow me to value authenticity and genuine connection – judging individuals by the content of their character rather than the colour of their skin, to build mutual respect so organic diversity can flourish.

Personal development

My personal development skills have developed from a need to consider the scarcity of life. The urgency to maximise my growth and fulfilment as pushed me to develop these skills.

I have further embraced resilience, understanding that time is limited, and perseverance is the only option. Simply considering every challenge as an opportunity to grow has given me a new perspective on quite literally everything I do.

My awareness of life’s scarcity has heightened introspective awareness. It was my ex-fiancé’s mother who first asked me flat out what my values in life were. Startled by the question I realised I had much self-discovery to do. My newly developed profound self-awareness guides my decisions and actions that I live authentically to my values.

The sudden realisation of life’s scarcity has intensified my desire for knowledge and growth. Creating “knowledge boards” as I call them has allowed me to keep an overview of knowledge developed to remind myself that my mind is constantly developing. Every challenge, encounter, and observation is a knowledge vault waiting to be opened if I am willing to indulge.

Ultimately, I focus on the transformative impact of embracing the scarcity of life as a driving factor for personal development. Understanding that every moment presents knowledge waiting to me explored has allowed me to reflect more and develop as an individual I am proud to present to the world.

Working with others

The value of contributions, regardless of quality, is a concept I have grappled with, from the experience of non-contributing team members impeding progress. Reflecting on this experience, I have come to appreciate that even poor contributions hold value as they signify willingness to participate regardless of a lesser ability to aid.

During the G1 coursework, I encountered a situation where non-contributing team members hindered our team’s progress. Frustrated by the lack of engagement, I recognized the importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive environment to encourage participation. Me and another team member took initiative to organize a social event with the group. The social gathering reduced barriers that previously prevented group members from participating in work.

After the initiative, team dynamics shifted positively. With a more relaxed atmosphere, communication became more prevalent. While some contributions from team members were less helpful, they guided the project in the correct direction.

Through this experience, I have learned that fostering an environment where contributions are valued, regardless of the quality of contributions, is crucial for strong results. Embracing the idea that poor contributions are preferable to no contributions encourages success.